

DECLASSIFIED  
A/ISS/IPS, Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
October 11, 2007

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AMEMBASSY KABUL

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TO RUEFLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 7486  
INFO RUMJGM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 8264  
RUSPOD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8218  
RUMJHT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 2844  
RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3951  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8672  
RUSPAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2152  
RUESHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 0198  
RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, AF, US  
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN

REF: KABUL 1090 AND A-12

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. WE HAVE EXAMINED WITH INTEREST RESULTS OF MISSION'S REVIEW OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN (REFTEL), ALONG WITH REPORT OF REVIEW GROUP. WE COMMEND YOUR THOROUGH EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY MISSION'S OPENNESS IN INVOLVING ALL ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY TEAM AND INCLUSION OF DISSENTING VIEWS. YOUR REVIEW IS TIMELY BOTH IN TERMS OF NEW REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ASSESSMENT (FAM 212), AND IN VIEW RECENT POLITICAL EVOLUTION UNDER DAQUD GOVERNMENT. WE ENDORSE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF YOUR REVIEW, WHICH WE NOTE REMAIN IN BASIC ACCORD WITH 1969 NSC/IC POLICY PAPER ON AFGHANISTAN. DEPT COMMENT FOLLOWS ON SELECTED PORTIONS OF YOUR POLICY REVIEW MESSAGE AND REVIEW GROUP'S PAPER.

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2. WE AGREE THAT BASIC U.S. INTERESTS IN AFGHANISTAN REMAIN UNCHANGED BY ADVENT OF DAQUD. USG INTERESTS THERE CONTINUE TO BE INTERWOVEN WITH OUR INTERESTS IN PROMOTING PEACE, STABILITY AND COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS OF REGION,

PARTICULARLY NEIGHBORING IRAN AND PAKISTAN. TO EXTENT THAT AFGHANISTAN REMAINS TABLE, INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED, US POLICY INTERESTS IN THE REGION ARE WELL SERVED. AN AFGHANISTAN REGARDED BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN AREA AS A THREAT - EITHER BY ITS OWN INTENSIFYING ACTIONS OR THROUGH DOMINATION BY ANOTHER POWER - WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR POLICY GOALS IN THE REGION.

3. YOUR REVIEW NOTES THAT GOA RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF USG PRESENCE IN COUNTRY AS PRIMARILY POLITICAL. WHILE OUR PRESENCE IS PRIMARILY IN FORM OF DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE, WE AGREE THAT OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS MUST CONTINUE TO BE BASED ON THEIR OWN MERITS. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT PERCEIVE PRESENT OR FUTURE GROUNDS WHEREIN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WOULD LEAD US TO APPROVE UNSOUND DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS. AT SAME TIME WORLDWIDE CONSTRAINTS ON US ASSISTANCE COULD INHIBIT ADOPTION OF OTHERWISE DESIRABLE PROJECTS FROM BOTH POLITICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL VIEWPOINTS. IN THIS REGARD, RESEMBORSE#REVIEW GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS OF USG ASSISTANCE TOWARD PROGRAMS WITH BROAD DEVELOPMENTAL BENEFITS FOR THE POOREST MAJORITY. WE ALSO CONCUR IN MISSION'S INTENT TO UNDERTAKE REVIEW AT THIS TIME OF ALL US PROGRAM AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES, IN CONTEXT OF TOTAL US EFFORT IN COUNTRY.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF MORE COLLABORATIVE STYLE WITH GOA SHOULD HELP INSURE THAT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE AFGHAN-PROPOSED AND HAVE FULLEST AFGHAN SUPPORT. IN THIS REGARD, GOA REQUEST FOR CONTINUED US ASSISTANCE IN HELMAND SHOULD BE HANDLED IN WAY THAT INSURES AFGHANS ARE OUT IN FRONT IN EVERY PHASE OF REVIEW, AND IN INITIATION OF ANY PROPOSED NEW ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CURRYGE ASSESSMENT.

5. CONCERNING PROGRAMS OTHER THAN USAID, PEACE CORPS APPROACH TO DEALING WITH GOA SHOULD PARALLEL THAT OF AID IN STYLE. WE NOTE THAT CERTAIN PC PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN

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STYMIED, OWING PARTLY TO REFERENCES AND POLICIES OF NEW PERSONNEL IN GOA. CAREFUL TAILORING OF PC PROGRAMS IN AREAS OF PRIORITY TO BOTH GOA AND USG WILL BE NECESSARY AS WE ATTEMPT TO MEET OBJECTIVE OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. RE MAP, WE CONCUR THAT PROGRAM SHOULD CONTINUE AT ABOUT PRESENT LEVEL, SUBJECT TO GOA DESIRES AND WORLDWIDE MAP PRIORITIES AND FUNDING. WE VIEW USIS PROGRAMMING AT OR NEAR PRESENT LEVEL AS ABOUT RIGHT FOR AFGHANISTAN. ANY NEW RESTRICTIONS ON USG CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL OR INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS, IF POINTED AT U.S. AND NOT OTHERS, WOULD PROBABLY INDICATE OVERALL SHIFT IN GOA POLICY AND ATTITUDE TOWARD TOTAL US PRESENCE WHICH MIGHT NECESSITATE GENERAL REVIEW OF POLICY TOWARD COUNTRY.

6. ON FOREIGN POLICY WE ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH REFTEL RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE LINE WE HAVE TAKEN IN PAST TO PROMOTE IMPROVED AFGHAN RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING PAKISTAN AND IRAN. ON PUSHTUNISTAN, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO STAY OUT OF MIDDLE, WHILE RESERVING OPTION TO TAKE MORE

ACTIVE ROLE IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT, SUCH AS THREAT TO PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL STABILITY OR OF MORE ADVENTURIST AFGHAN POLICY. AT SAME TIME, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE KNOWN OUR COMMITMENT TO INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN AND DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION THIS PROBLEM.

7. FINALLY, DEPARTMENT ENDORSES MISSION'S INCREASED EFFORTS TOWARD IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING BY AMERICANS OF AFGHAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

AND OTHER MEASURES TO DECREASE "GHETTO MENTALITY" OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN KABUL. WE AGREE SUCH MOVES WILL ENHANCE AMERICAN PRESENCE AND FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES IN AFGHANISTAN. KISSINGER

#GARBLED PORTION:

"WE ENDORSE REVIEW GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON INCREASING..."